

**Lower Manhattan Development Corporation
First Meeting of the Residents Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
February 12th, 2002
Downtown Alliance
5:30 – 7:30 pm
LMDC Board Members: Madelyn Wils, Paul Crotty**

Lower Manhattan Development Corporation (LMDC) Board Members Madelyn Wils and Paul Crotty gave welcoming remarks and each of the Residents Advisory Council members and ex-officio members introduced themselves. Tara Snow, Vice President for Government and Community Relations from the LMDC gave a brief overview of the LMDC and the role of the Residents Advisory Council. Ms. Snow stressed how important public participation will be throughout the rebuilding and renewing process and the Residents Advisory Council will provide a forum for direct input to the LMDC Board members.

LMDC Board Members Ms. Wils and Mr. Crotty then invited the Advisory Council members to talk about their ideas and concerns. Many of the Advisory Council members raised the issue of air quality, both indoor and outdoor, in Lower Manhattan and the need for more information on what efforts were being taken to address air quality issues.

Quality of life issues in Lower Manhattan were also discussed. There was a suggestion to increase the amount of green space in Lower Manhattan, with an emphasis east of Broadway. There was also a suggestion to conduct an overall clean-up of many of the streets and sidewalks in Lower Manhattan. Streetscape improvements, street furniture, banners, and wayfaring sign were also mentioned as a way to improve the

quality of life. Council members spoke of the need for more recreational space including parks, playing fields as additional ways to improve the quality of life in Lower Manhattan. Depressing West Street and connecting Battery Park City to the waterfront was also mentioned as a way to increase the amount of green space in the area and providing more access to the waterfront.

Many of the residents indicated that illegal parking is making it very difficult to drive on the streets and walk on the sidewalks in Lower Manhattan. Alternative areas, such as empty parking lots, need to be identified to park city and public utility vehicles.

Residents are finding that many insurance companies are not renewing renters or homeowners policies. Many are unable to get insurance as a result of 9/11. Tara Snow offered to have someone from the New York State Insurance Department listen to their concerns at a future meeting.

Many Advisory Council members felt there is a lack of public education, more specifically, a public high school in Lower Manhattan. Additionally, the members also expressed a desire for a new library as part of any long-term planning efforts. Lastly, residents would like a reduction in their real property taxes and many would like to see their property reassessed.

LMDC Board Members Madelyn Wils and Paul Crotty thanked the members for their valuable input and indicated that there would be a follow-up meeting on March 14. The meeting adjourned.